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SCIENCE

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THE HARVARD ASTROPHYSICAL CONFERENCE.

THE first Astrophysical Conference, held on the memorable occasion of the dedication of the Yerkes Observatory, was so marked a success and started a movement so important to American astrophysical

science that it was to be expected it would result in the perpetuation of such conferences. Both from the graceful tribute brought on that occasion from Harvard, the oldest observatory devoted to astrophysical research, to the newest seeking similar work, and from the fact that Professor E. C. Pickering's fearless application of modern methods of research to far-reaching astronomical problems had made the Harvard Observatory a center of interest to many astronomers, was it eminently proper that the second Conference, and that first proposing a permanent organization of American astronomers, should be held at the Harvard College Observatory.

Quite apart from the scientific papers read and discussed, the Observatory entertaining the Conference in itself constituted a special contribution. In no other observatory could the methods by which modern astronomy is breaking with traditional types of work be more completely and systematically exhibited. Professor E. C. Pickering's vast organization of work, as concretely represented in the photographic and other results accessible to the members of the Conference, was unquestionably the greatest and most inspiring contribution made to the Conference. There were the organized photometric determinations represented not only in Professor Pickering's own work with the meridian photometer, but in the work of Mr. Wendell in accurate